

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 5, 2004
For immediate release

- 1. Thursday's Marshalltown REAP assembly rescheduled**
- 2. Air quality unhealthy in southwest Davenport**
- 3. Impaired waters, volunteer monitors to be highlighted at annual conference**
- 4. DNR enforcement actions**

THURSDAY'S MARSHALLTOWN REAP ASSEMBLY RESCHEDULED

MARSHALLTOWN — Due to inclement weather, Thursday's (Feb. 5) REAP assembly in Marshalltown has been rescheduled for March 30. The time and location will remain the same: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room 614 of the main building at Iowa Valley Community College, located on Hwy 14 just south of US Highway 30.

The meeting is for residents of Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek and Tama counties to discuss the future of REAP (the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program), Iowa's premiere outdoor recreation and conservation funding program.

For more information, contact Ross Harrison at (515) 281-5973.

###

AIR QUALITY UNHEALTHY IN SOUTHWEST DAVENPORT

DES MOINES — Air quality in southwest Davenport was unhealthy for sensitive groups Monday with an Air Quality Index measuring 104 due to microscopic sized particulate matter, the DNR reported today.

The particulate pollution levels were not widespread over the city, but confined to southwest areas of the city. A second particulate monitor located at Jefferson Elementary School at 10th and Vine measured moderate air quality with an AQI of 85. Monday's Air Quality Index readings elsewhere across Iowa were elevated, but still in the moderate category. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reports pollution levels using a color-coded and numerical range for pollutants. The higher the AQI, the poorer the air quality.

An AQI of 1 to 50 is green or good, 51 to 100 is yellow or moderate, 101 to 150 is orange or unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151 to 200 is red, unhealthy for everyone. Rarely monitored are purple for very unhealthy (201 to 300) and maroon for hazardous (301 to 500.)

Similar pollution episode occurred in the vicinity in March 2000, when air quality measured 113 on the Air Quality Index and 117 this past November.

Particulate matter is a generic term to describe microscopic sized solids, liquid droplets, or aerosols in the air. Because the particles are so small they are able to penetrate the deepest parts of the lungs, increasing the likelihood of respiratory symptoms in sensitive individuals, including children, the elderly and those with heart disease.

For more information, contact Brian Button at (515) 281-7832.

###

IMPAIRED WATERS, VOLUNTEER MONITORS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AMES — The condition of Iowa's water quality will again be the center of attention this month, as the DNR hosts the fourth annual Water Monitoring Conference Feb. 18 and 19.

The conference will be held at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. The registration deadline is Feb. 13.

Anyone interested in water quality is encouraged to attend. Cost for the two-day event is \$15, and poster presentations are welcome.

The DNR brings two widely acclaimed keynote speakers to discuss two important issues: hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico and the need to clean up rivers. Dr. Donald Scavia and Chad Pregracke will deliver the keynote addresses on the first day of the conference.

Scavia's presentation, "Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia: Causes, Consequences and Correctives," will focus on the low-oxygen, or hypoxic, region commonly referred to as the Gulf of Mexico "dead zone." Scavia is a University of Michigan professor of Natural Resources and Environment and former chief scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service.

The organizer of Living Lands and Waters and creator of the Mississippi River Beautification and Restoration Project, Pregracke's presentation, "Cleaning up America's Rivers, One Piece at a Time," will address the need and importance of preserving and conserving our nation's rivers. Pregracke is also the recipient of several honors, including the prestigious Jefferson Award.

Several other presentations will be offered on Feb. 19, including:

- Water quality impacts on biological populations

- Urban and wastewater quality
- Drinking water quality
- Volunteers in action, which will include presentations from Iowa volunteer groups

Human perceptions on water quality, nutrient trends and management, crop management and water quality, lake ecosystems and bacteria source tracking will also be discussed.

Additional highlights include individuals sharing their experiences and insight in an informal setting at the Volunteer Roundtable Group Discussions, and a short ceremony recognizing the 2003 IOWATER Award Winners.

Registration forms and more information can be found at <http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu>.

For more information on Scavia and his work at the University of Michigan, visit his Web site at <http://www.snre.umich.edu>. For information on his work as director of the Michigan Sea Grant Program, visit <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu>.

For more information on Chad Pregracke and his work, visit his Web site at <http://www.livinglandsandwaters.org>.

For more information on the conference, registration, or details on display space, contact Sarah Masengarb at (319) 335-1571 or at smasengarb@igsb.uiowa.edu.

###

DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Bob Kerrigan, of Afton, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan and pay a \$750 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Bryan Swenson, of Jewell, was ordered to comply with manure applicator certification, manure management plan and manure retention requirements. Swenson was also ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty.
- Bruce Lorch, of Harris, was ordered to comply with manure applicator certification and manure management plan requirements, and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The penalty has been paid.
- Loru Farm Partnership, of Osceola County, was ordered to have its employees comply with manure applicator certification requirements and to pay a \$3,000 penalty.

- Van Veldhuizen Dairy, of Sioux County, was ordered to have its employees comply with manure applicator certification requirements and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- John Schmall and Gina Lundberg, owners of Carpenter Bar and Grill, of Carpenter, were ordered to cease operation of the facility until a water supply operation permit is obtained. To obtain a permit, a complete application must be filed. In addition, Schmall and Lundberg were ordered to pay \$250 in past-due operation fees and late fees, and a \$10,000 penalty. If the facility continues to operate, the following is required: sampling drinking water for bacteria and nitrate at least once per quarter, performing follow-up bacteria sampling if a positive test result is obtained, and providing public notice of monitoring violations and proof of providing public notice to the DNR.
- Swine USA, of Clarke County, was ordered to submit an updated and complete manure management plan, submit an annual compliance fee and pay a \$750 penalty.
- McCarty Farms, of O'Brien County, was ordered to cease discharge of pollutants to waters of the state, comply with minimum manure control requirements, submit and comply with a manure management plan, and pay a \$4,000 penalty. The penalty is in addition to restitution in the amount of \$673.64 for a fish kill in the Little Floyd River in November 2003.
- Trent Ellis, of Jolley, was ordered to totally retain all manure produced in confinement units between periods of manure disposal, remove manure as necessary to prevent overflow or discharge, and to comply with all manure release reporting requirements. Ellis was also ordered to dispose of dead animals in a correct and timely manner, cease illegal disposal of solid waste, stop open burning of combustible materials and pay a \$3,000 penalty.
- Landfill of Des Moines, Inc., of Des Moines, was ordered to remove all shingles and other solid wastes from its facility at 4764 NE 22nd St., and to verify that all closure requirements have been completed at the subject site. The landfill will pay a \$7,000 penalty if the shingles are not removed within 45 days of receiving the administrative order, and an additional \$3,000 fine if it does not submit documentation showing that all closure requirements have been met within 90 days of receiving the order.
- The City of Sutherland was ordered to comply with the compliance schedule for wastewater facility improvements, comply with wastewater monitoring and reporting requirements, maintain and operate all facilities in proper working order, and to pay a \$2,500 penalty.
- The City of Runnels was ordered to comply with operator certification requirements and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the public drinking water supply. The City has been operating without a certified operator since 1996.

- Broin and Associates, Inc., aka Iowa Ethanol, LLC, of Worth County, was ordered to cease construction or modification of any waste disposal system and public water supply system until required construction permits have been obtained, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Broin and Associates, Inc., aka Otter Creek Ethanol, LLC, of Osceola County, was ordered to cease construction or modification of any waste disposal system until required construction permits have been obtained, to comply with storm water permit requirements, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Holcim (US), Inc., of Mason City, has agreed to a consent order regarding alleged monitored violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Holcim has agreed to maintain a fence line as to prevent public access to the facility, submit air quality construction permit applications to the DNR, to keep a daily log to demonstrate compliance with daily throughput limits, and to limit the location and size of storage piles. Holcim also agreed to implement speed controls and limit traffic along an unpaved haul road, control fugitive emissions from unpaved haul roads, and limit traffic and control fugitive emissions on paved haul roads. In addition, Holcim agreed to keep records of the number of coal cars unloaded daily at the Coal Dump Shed and to submit to the DNR quarterly progress reports toward obtaining and updating its air quality construction permits.
- ITWC, Inc., of Brooklyn, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding construction without a permit. The original administrative order was amended to state that ITWC, Inc. denies liability for the violations alleged in the original order and that three ITWC representatives have attended training regarding Iowa's air quality laws. ITWC also agreed to pay a \$5,000 penalty.
- Custom Feeds, Inc., of Muscatine, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding air quality, solid waste and asbestos regulations. Custom Feeds has agreed to pay a \$3,000 penalty and a \$7,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP). The SEP will relocate a dehydrator stack away from Custom Feeds' property line, helping to reduce ambient air impacts in surrounding areas.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131.